

## IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.12(c)(1)(i), presented below is a "clean" set of "rewritten claims." A "marked-up" version of this claim is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

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1. A method for classifying and counting leukocytes comprising the steps of:
- (1) adding to a hematological sample the following fluorescence-labeled antibodies labeled with fluorescent dyes which emit fluorescences distinguishable from each other;
- (a) a first fluorescence-labeled antibody which binds specifically to leukocytes,
- (b) a second fluorescence-labeled antibody which binds to at least one kind of neutrophilic cells, and
- (c) a third fluorescence-labeled antibody which binds to at least one kind of immature granulocytic cells,
- in order to stain the leucocytic cells in the hematological sample, and removing erythrocytes from the hematological sample;
- (2) analyzing the resulting hematological sample using a flow cytometer to measure at least one scattered light signal and three separate fluorescence signals;
- (3) classifying granulocytic cells on the basis of intensity of the scattered light and intensity of fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody;
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(4) distinguishing eosinophils and neutrophilic cells in the granulocytic cells obtained in step (3) on the basis of the intensity of the fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the second or third fluorescence-labeled antibody;

(5) classifying the neutrophilic cells obtained in step (4) into groups having different degrees of maturity into groups of neutrophilic cells different in degree of maturity on the basis of the intensity of the fluorescence from the second fluorescence-labeled antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the third fluorescence-labeled antibody; and

counting the number of cells in each of the groups.

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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (3), a group of all leukocytic cells is defined and counted on the basis of the intensity of the scattered light and the intensity of the fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody in addition to the granulocytic cells obtained in step (3), and in step (5), the ratio of the number of the neutrophilic cells obtained in step (4) different in degree of maturity with respect to the number of all the leukocytic cells is calculated.

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12. The method according to claim 1 that in the step (4), a two-dimensional scattergram is produced from the intensity of the fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the second or third fluorescence-labeled antibody, and the eosinophils and the group of neutrophilic cells in the granulocytic cells obtained in step (3) are distinguished on the two-dimensional scattergram.